FILE COPY

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

MAR 24 1995

HSRL-6J

Mr. Gene Liu
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
215 North 17th Street
Attn: CEMRO-ED-ED
Omaha, NE 68201-4978

RE: Comments regarding "Second Quarter 1994 Groundwater Sampling Event"
NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site, Granite City, Illinois

Dear Mr. Liu:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has reviewed the December 1994 report "Second Quarter 1994 Groundwater Sampling Event" for the NL Industries Site in Granite City, Illinois and hereby provides the comments contained in the enclosure. Please revise the document and provide a revised document within thirty (30) days.

If you have any questions, you may contact Sheri L. Bianchin at (312) 886-4745 or me at (312) 886-4742.

Sincerely,

Brad Bradley

Brad Bradley
Remedial Project Manager

cc: Robert Rogers, IEPA

ENCLOSURE

Comments regarding the report "Second Quarter 1994 Groundwater Sampling Event for the NL/Taracorp Superfund Site, Granite City, Illinois.

1. Page 1 and 7 refers to TAL metals. A definition for these metals should be provided in the report.

2. Page 2 states that "due to possible cross-contamination of the groundwater sample by fugitive emissions of lead-bearing dust, the well was not sampled." It is not clear how this cross-contaminant was likely to occur. Elaborate upon this further.

3. It appears that the duplicate sample results for wells 104 and 104-92 were omitted from the tables. Please revise the reports or advise us where the data exists and has been overlooked. If not, one must be prepared.

4. The report discusses instances when constituents are identified above regulatory levels such as when MCLs or Illinois standards have been exceeded. This is fine. In addition, exceedances of "reporting limits" are referred to throughout the narrative of the report. Firstly, reporting limits are not defined. Secondly, it may be more appropriate to discuss the instances when a positive identification of a constituent has been made and therefore, method detection limits or quantitation limits may be more appropriate. Clarify this discrepancy.